

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument



*Data Coordinators Workshop, 2009*

# Topics Covered

- Background
- Purpose and Use
- Description of the Assessment Form
- Factors in the Risk Assessment
- Factors in the Needs Assessment
- Case Management Component
- Working Through an Example
- Pilot Sites

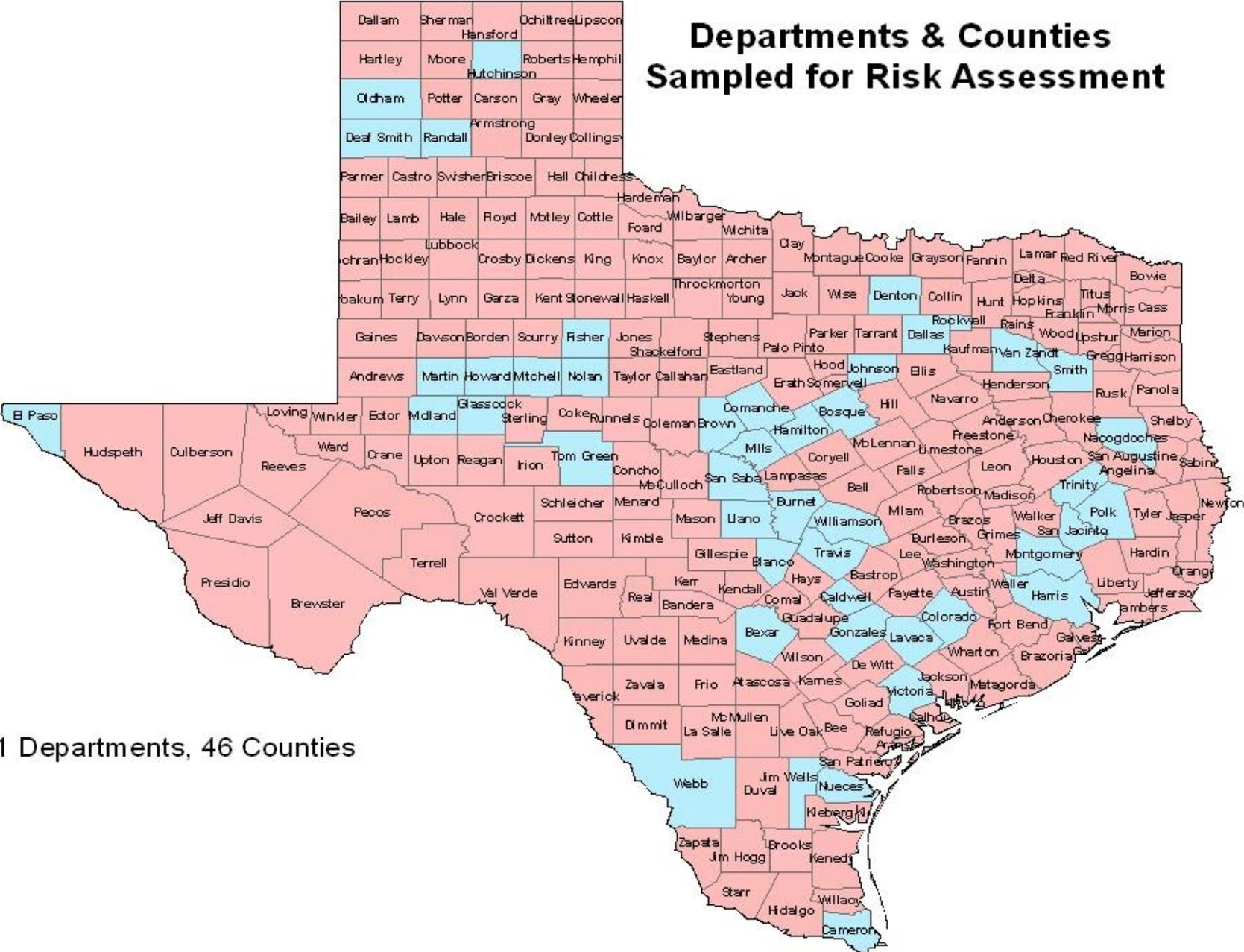
# Background

- TJPC developed the Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument based on data collected from juvenile probation departments throughout the state
  - Thirty-one departments, 46 counties
  - Information was collected on 3,047 juveniles

# Background

- Departments were selected for the study
  - Mix of small, medium and large departments
  - All regions of state represented
- Juvenile cases were sampled
  - Representative number of girls and boys, high risk and low risk offenders

# Departments & Counties Sampled for Risk Assessment



31 Departments, 46 Counties

# Background

- The study leading to the Assessment began with all juveniles formally referred to juvenile probation in 2003
- Juveniles tracked for three years to determine number of subsequent referrals/arrests
  - Juveniles tracked into the adult system

# Background

- Collected information on selected juveniles from the files
  - Demographic, school, peers, substance abuse, abuse and neglect, mental health, family, victims, placements, risk and protective factors
- Also had data from TJPC monthly extract and other state agencies

# Background

- Analysis conducted to determine those factors that were most predictive of re-offense
  - Factors for boys and girls analyzed separately
- Focus on identifying “chronic” offenders
  - Chronic defined as three or more subsequent offenses in a three year period

# Background

- A Risk and Needs Assessment was developed
  - Assessment includes 11 risk and 7 needs factors for boys, 10 risk and 7 needs factors for girls
- Separate assessment for males and females
- Assessment valid for juveniles in Texas

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

*Purpose and Use*

# Purpose of Risk Assessment

- The Risk Assessment is designed to identify juveniles who are at risk of becoming chronic offenders
  - Assessment classifies a juvenile's risk as “Low” , “Medium” or “High”

# Percent Chronic

	Boys	Girls
Low Risk	14%	9%
Medium Risk	42%	37%
High Risk	67%	69%
Total All Chronic	36%	30%

# Proportion Of Risk Levels

	Boys	Girls
Low Risk	36%	40%
Medium Risk	47%	47%
High Risk	17%	13%
Total All Chronic	100%	100%

# Purpose of Needs Assessment

- The Needs Assessment identifies factors that, although not predictive of re-offense, target juveniles for more intensive or specialized services
  - Assessment classifies the needs of the juvenile into “Low”, “Medium” and “High”

# Purpose of Assessment Instrument

- The assessment is designed to help departments determine the appropriate supervision and services for juveniles
  - Identification of youth most at risk of committing subsequent offenses allows for targeting of supervision and services
  - Identification of youth with highest levels of need allows for targeting of programs and services

# Purpose of Assessment Instrument

- Ultimate purpose of assessment instrument is to reduce recidivism
  - Targeting supervision and services early rather than later for medium and high risk juveniles should reduce recidivism

# Use of Assessment Instrument

- Assessment Instrument should be completed prior to the disposition of a juvenile's case
  - “A juvenile probation department must, before the disposition of a child's case and using a validated risk and needs assessment instrument or process provided or approved by the commission, complete a risk and needs assessment for each child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile probation department.”

# Percent Chronic by Disposition

Disposition	Percent Chronic
Dismissed	35%
Supervisory Caution	37%
Deferred	22%
Probation	39%
TYC/ Certified as an Adult*	18%
Total	33%

\*Information was not available on all juveniles sent to TYC or certified as an adult

# Use of Assessment Instrument

- TJPC will be making rules concerning the use of the Assessment Instrument
  - Until approved by the TJPC Board, Departments can set their own policy for when and for whom the assessment will be given

# Use of Assessment Instrument

- Recommend the Assessment Instrument be completed as part of the disposition decision process
  - At a minimum, all juveniles with a recommendation of community supervision, placement or TYC commitment should have an assessment

# Use of the Assessment Instrument

- The assessment itself will take only minutes to complete

IF

- the information about the juvenile has been gathered completely!

# Use of the Assessment Instrument

- It is important to complete the assessment as accurately and thoroughly as possible
- It is important to use the most current information available for the juvenile
- Incomplete or inaccurate information used in the assessment instrument will result in errors in the juvenile's risk and needs classification

# Use of the Assessment Instrument

- It is also essential that all staff completing the assessment use the same definitions for each of the factors included on the assessment
  - Differences in the interpretation of risk and need factors will lead to similar juveniles being classified differently

# Use of the Assessment Instrument

- Upon completion of the assessment the juvenile will have an assigned Risk and Needs level
- At a minimum:
  - Recommend supervision and services for “Medium” or “High” Risk and/or Needs juveniles

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

*Description of the Assessment Form*

- The Risk and Needs Assessment form should be completed electronically
- A paper copy of the form can be used to gather the information needed
- The electronic form requires that each field be completed
- Automatic error checking prohibits the entry of most incorrect information
- Scores are calculated for the user

# Electronic Form

## TJPC Risk and Needs Assessment

HQ County Number

PID Number

Referral Number

Referral Date  (mm-dd-yy)

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Gender

Date of Birth  (mm-dd-yy)

Date of Risk Assessment  (mm-dd-yy)

Juvenile's Risk Level: You've omitted an entry!

Juvenile's Needs Level: You've omitted an entry!

### Risk Assessment

Age at first referral

Total referrals (including the current one)

Drug use

Parent/guardian supervision control

Parent has a criminal history?

No. of runaways

No. of school discipline referrals in previous year

### Needs Assessment

Prior traumatic event(s)?

Mental health needs?

Is current offense a violent felony?

Failing under supervision?

Sibling criminal history?

Frequent substance use?

Currently failing 2+ subjects?

# Paper Form - Male

## TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION RISK and NEED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT - MALE

PART I – JUVENILE INFORMATION			
Headquarter County:	Juvenile's Name:	PID#:	Referral #:
Date of Referral:	Date of Birth:	Gender: <b>Male</b>	Date of Assessment:

PART II – RISK ASSESSMENT			
	Score	Notes / Comments	
<b>1. AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL:</b> _____			
10 - 12 years of age.....	2	_____	_____
13 – 15 years of age.....	1	_____	_____
16 years of age or older.....	0	_____	_____
<b>2. TOTAL REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION:</b> _____			
4 or more referrals (including current).....	1	_____	_____
1 to 3 referrals (including current).....	0	_____	_____
<b>3. DRUG USE:</b>			
Frequent use.....	3	_____	_____
Occasional use.....	2	_____	_____
None or rare use.....	0	_____	_____
<b>4. PARENT GUARDIAN SUPERVISION/CONTROL:</b>			

# Paper Form - Female

## TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION RISK and NEED ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT - FEMALE

### PART I – JUVENILE INFORMATION

Headquarter County:	Juvenile's Name:	PID#:	Referral #:
Date of Referral:	Date of Birth:	Gender: <b>Female</b>	Date of Assessment:

### PART II – RISK ASSESSMENT

	Score	Notes / Comments
<b>1. AGE AT FIRST REFERRAL:</b> _____		
10 - 11 years of age.....	4	_____
12 - 13 years of age.....	3	_____
14 - 15 years of age.....	2	_____
16 years of age or older.....	0	_____
<b>2. TOTAL REFERRALS TO JUVENILE PROBATION:</b> _____		
4 or more referrals (including current).....	1	_____
1 to 3 referrals (including current).....	0	_____
<b>3. DRUG USE:</b> _____		
Frequent use.....	4	_____
Occasional use.....	3	_____

# Completing the Assessment Form

- The assessment is divided into three sections:
  - **Part I: Juvenile Information**
  - **Part II: Risk Assessment**
  - **Part III: Needs Assessment**
- The electronic form also has a section that provides information for Case Management

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

*Factors in the Risk Assessment*

# Factors and Scoring

- Factors determined by their ability to predict chronic re-offense
- Scoring determined by the degree to which they predicted re-offense

# Risk Factors

Age at First Referral

Total Referrals to Juvenile Probation

Drug Use

Parent Guardian Supervision/ Control

Parent has a Criminal History

Number of Prior Runaways

Number of School Discipline Referrals in Past Year

Ever Failed a Grade

Juvenile is Chronically Truant

Juvenile' Peers

Juvenile Exhibits Aggressive Behavior

# Age at First Referral

## Boys

10-12 years=2

13-15 years=1

16 years or older=0

## Girls

10-11 years=4

12-13 years=3

14-15 years=2

16 years or older=0

# Total Referrals to Juvenile Probation

## Boys

4 or more referrals=1

1 to 3 referrals=0

## Girls

4 or more referrals=1

1 to 3 referrals=0

# Drug Use

## Boys

Frequent use=3

Occasional use=2

None or rare=0

## Girls

Frequent use=4

Occasional use=3

None or rare=0

# Parent Guardian Supervision/ Control

## Boys

No control=3

Some difficulty  
controlling=2

Mostly effective=0

## Girls

No control=4

Some difficulty  
controlling=2

Mostly effective=0

# Parent Has a Criminal History

## Boys

Prior history=1

No prior history=0

## Girls

Prior history=1

No prior history=0

# Number of Runaways

## Boys

1 or more runaways=1

No runaways=0

## Girls

2 or more runaways=2

1 runaways=1

No runaways=0

# Number of School Discipline Referrals in Past Year

## Boys

9 or more referrals=2

3 to 8 referrals=1

0 to 2 referrals=0

## Girls

9 or more referrals=2

3 to 8 referrals=1

0 to 2 referrals=0

# Ever Failed a Grade

**Boys**

Yes=1

No=0

**Girls**

Yes=1

No=0

# Juvenile is Chronically Truant

**Boys**

Yes=1

No=0

**Girls**

Yes=1

No=0

# Juvenile's Peers

## Boys

Negative=1

Positive or mixed=0

## Girls

Negative=1

Positive or mixed=0

# Juvenile Exhibits Aggressive Behavior

## Boys

Yes=1

No=0

## Girls

Yes=0\*

No=0

\*Matters for case management

# Risk Assessment Scoring and Levels

## Boys

0-5=Low

6-11=Medium

12-18=High

## Girls

0-7=Low

8-14=Medium

15-21=High

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

*Factors in the Needs Assessment*

# Needs Assessment

- The factors included in the needs assessment are indicators that the juvenile may be in need of services and/or programs
- The presence or absence of factors determines the juvenile's need for department supervision and/or programs
- Needs are the same for both boys and girls

# Needs Factors

Prior Traumatic Events	Yes=1 No=0
Mental Health Needs	Yes=2 No=0
Current Offense is a Violent Felony	Yes=2 No=0
Failing Under Community Supervision	Yes=2 No=0
Sibling has a Criminal History	Yes=1 No=0
Frequent Substance Use	Yes=2 No=0
Currently Failing Two or More Subjects in School	Yes=1 No=0

# Needs Assessment Scoring & Levels

## Boys

0-1=Low

2-4=Medium

5-11=High

## Girls

0-1=Low

2-4=Medium

5-11=High

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument *Case Management Component*

# Case Management

- Case management domain areas appear in the bottom right section of the form as risk and needs factors are completed
- The areas that appear relate to the factors that make the juvenile at risk of re-offense and/or indicate areas of need

# Case Plan Domains

- Case management domain areas include:
  - Safety/Security
  - Education
  - Mental / Behavioral Health
  - Substance Abuse
  - Family Services

# Case Plan Domains

- Case management domains allow probation staff to target services for the juvenile being assessed

**BUT**

- The domains that appear may not be the most appropriate area from which to address the juvenile's needs

# Risk Factors & Case Plan Domains

<b>Risk/Need Factor</b>	<b>Case Plan Domain</b>
Drug Use: Frequent	Substance Abuse
Parent/Guardian Supervision: Some Difficulty Controlling and No Control	Family Services
Parent Criminal History	Family Services
Runaway: Two or more	Family Services
School Discipline Referrals: Three or more	Education
Chronically Truant	Education
Juvenile Aggressive Behavior	Safety/Security

# Need Factors & Case Plan Domains

<b>Risk/Need Factor</b>	<b>Case Plan Domain</b>
Prior Traumatic Events	Mental/Behavioral Health
Mental Health Needs	Mental/Behavioral Health
Current Offense a Violent Felony	Safety/Security
Sibling Criminal History	Family Services
Frequent Substance Use	Substance Abuse
Currently Failing 2+ Subjects	Education

# Targeting Supervision and Services

- Assessment is designed to assist in the delivery of supervision and services
- Recommend that supervision and services be targeted based on a juvenile's risk and needs levels

# Targeting Supervision and Services

- Department can develop a matrix of recommended supervision levels for juveniles at each risk level classification
- Department can develop a suggested program and service matrix for juveniles with medium and high levels of need

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument

*Working Through an Example*

# Working Through an Example

- Charles Schmidt was referred to the department on August 1, 2009 for possession of marijuana (MA)
- Charles is a 13 year old white male born on March 5, 1996
- Charles was assigned the PID number 4321 for his referral. The referral number for this offense is 00213.

# Risk Factor Information

- Charles and his mother provided information to the officer at intake
- Charles and his family moved to the area last year. He lives with his mother and 2 older brothers. The family does not currently have contact with Charles' father – he is currently on parole and living in Oklahoma.
- Charles has a prior referral in Travis County for shoplifting. The referral occurred in April 2008.

# Risk Factor Information

- Charles' mother reports that he is a good boy although he does not always follow her rules or do his chores. She reports that he argues with she and his brothers a lot but is not physically aggressive.
- Charles does leave home without permission and stays out past his curfew. He has one prior runaway. He has begun hanging out with friends that his mother does not approve of.

# Risk Factor Information

- Charles' mother reports that Charles does not use drugs or alcohol although at least one of his older brothers uses marijuana
- Charles reports that his friends are use drugs daily but he has only experimented with drugs once or twice. He claims that he does not drink alcohol.

# Risk Factor Information

- Charles does not like school but claims to attend regularly and to be passing all of his classes except math. He repeated the 6<sup>th</sup> grade last year and is currently in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Smiley Middle School.
- Charles' mother reports that he was in trouble last year for not going to class and for being disruptive. He was never expelled but she thinks that he was suspended at least three times during the last semester.

# Needs Factor Information

- Charles' mother states that the family has never been involved with CPS. She did say that her ex-husband was very abusive and was arrested on numerous occasions for assault domestic violence. Charles was 8 when she left her husband. At this time Charles' father was sentenced to prison. He has not had contact with his father since that time.
- Charles' father is in the only family member with a criminal history.

# Needs Factor Information

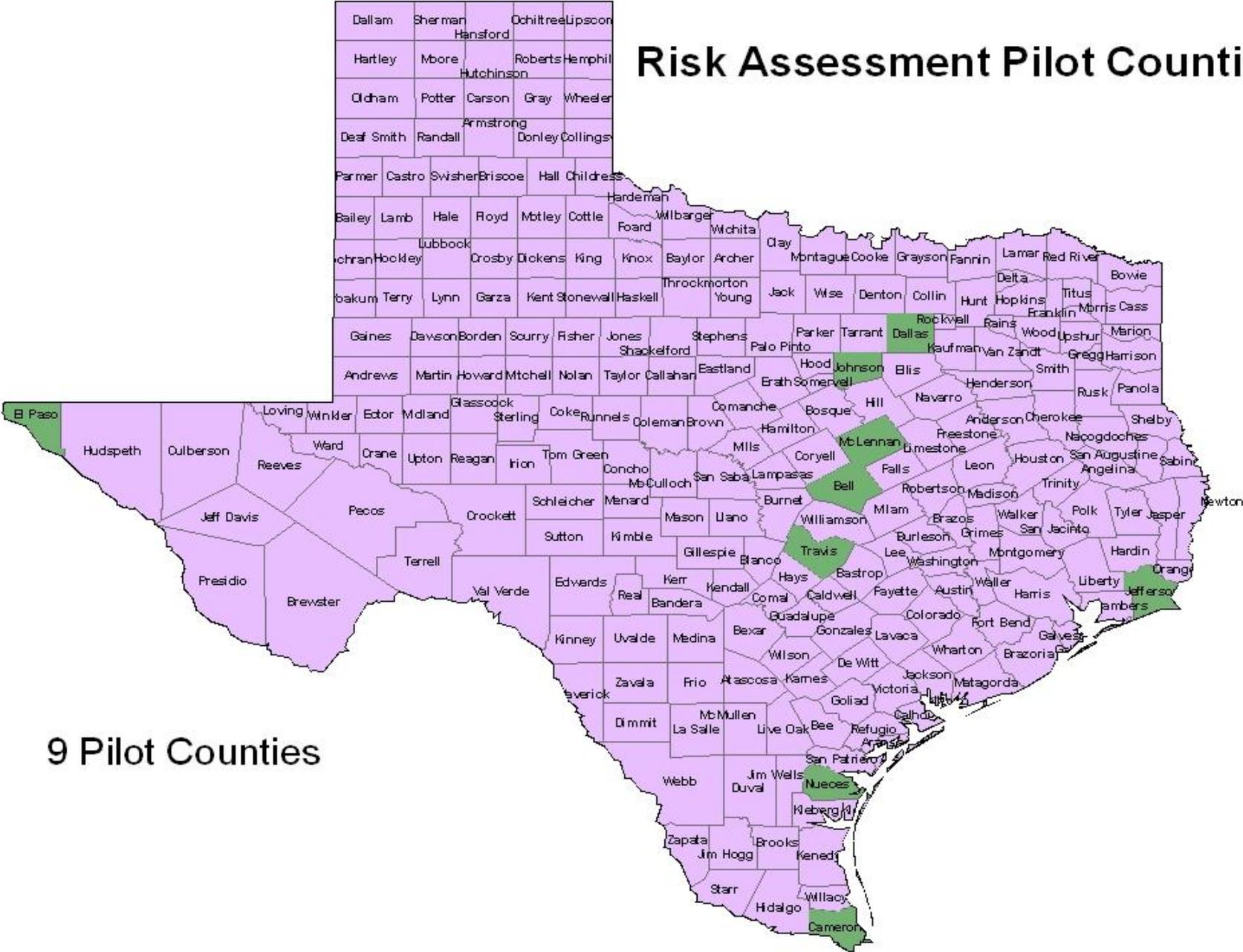
- Charles' grandmother, whom the family lived with since moving to the area, passed away last month after a brief illness.
- Charles was given the MAYSI at intake. He scored in the caution range for somatic complaints and for alcohol/drug use. He does not have suicidal ideations.

# Needs Factor Information

- Charles is not currently under supervision. He was placed on deferred in Travis County for shoplifting in 2008. He completed this supervision.
- School records indicate that Charles is currently failing math, science and social studies. His attendance is poor – he has missed 15 days/partial days so far this semester.

# Risk and Needs Assessment Instrument *Pilot Sites*

# Risk Assessment Pilot Counties



9 Pilot Counties

# Pilot Sites

- Began with Dallas in June 2009
- Finish with Cameron in October 2008
- Hope to learn what works and what doesn't work
- What is practical and what is impractical
- What are the best uses of the instrument
- Correct any glitches

# For Assistance or Questions Contact:

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